

## **Ipswich Parish Players**

### **2002.04**

#### **History**

The Ipswich Parish Players were a local drama group organized by director Sumner Nichols, with the help of Dr. and Mrs. Carroll Perry. The first performance by the Parish Players was given on December 13, 1930, under the direction of Sumner Nichols, in the Parish House of Ascension Memorial Church in Ipswich, Massachusetts. The group was active from 1930 into the 1950's, although productions were suspended during World War II. The Parish Players usually produced several plays each year, using the facilities of Ascension Memorial Church and furnishings borrowed from Ipswich homes to help defray expenses. All play selection, direction, and set design were done by Sumner Nichols, with the help of about 30 dedicated Ipswich Parish Players.

#### **Scope and Content/Series Description**

Three boxes (1.5 cubic feet)

1930 - 1942

The records are divided into three series: Governance, Scripts, and Memorabilia.

The Governance series contains the group's by-laws, member lists, and minutes from 1931 to 1942. The Scripts series contains the scripts of 11 plays written by Sumner Nichols. The Memorabilia series contains programs with set photos from June 1930 to May 1942, photographs, a newspaper article, a poem, signatures of the players, and Christmas cards.

The collection was donated to Patricia Tyler in 1995 and combines materials belonging to Charlotte Tyler (Pat's mother) and those of director Sumner Nichols. After Sumner's death, his materials from the Parish Players were given to Charlotte Tyler.

The main strengths of the collection are the documentation of the plays produced from 1930 to 1942 with programs and set photos and the scripts written by Sumner Nichols.

*Processed and described by Paula Grillo, March 2003*

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**Container List**

**Series 1**

**Governance**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	By-laws, Member Lists	No dates
1	2	Ipswich Parish Players Minutes	1931-1942

**Series 2**

**Scripts**

1	3	Alice in Wonderland	No date
1	4	At Midnight	No date
1	5	The Girl Across the Alley	No date
1	6	The Girl He Couldn't Buy (see Box 3)	No date
1	7	Hail! Hail! The Gang's All Here	No date
1	8	In Old Vermont (Acts I and II)	No date
1	9	In Old Vermont (Acts III and IV)	No date
1	10	The Old Homestead	No date
1	11	Patsy After All	No date
1	12	Score One for Abbie	No date
1	13	Static	No date
1	14	That Girl Patsy (new version)	No date
3	1	The Girl He Couldn't Buy (oversized script)	No date

<b>Series 3</b>		<b>Memorabilia</b>	
2	1	Newspaper article	No date
2	2	Photographs	1937, 1950
2	3	Photograph	No date
2	4	Alone (poem)	No date
2	5	Signatures of Players	No date
2	6	Programs and Set Photos (Scrapbook pages)	June 1930 - Sept 1936
2	7	Programs and Set Photos (Scrapbook pages)	Dec 1936- May 1942
2	8	Christmas Cards, Set Photos (Scrapbook pages)	1935, no date